(b) the criteria for awarding the dealership of Paraffin Wax to Scheduled Caste Tribe and OBC candidates on priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation took over marketing of paraffin wax from BPC/IBP during 1982. While taking over the marketing of paraffin wax from BPC/IBP, the existing dealer/distributor network was taken over by IOC under IOC's distributorship/dealership. In addition, during November, 1987 some new distributors have been appointed (considering 20 MT/month as the economically viable quantity) from the existing RO/SKO/LDO dealership network of IOC.No dealers have been appointed after 1987.

IOC(AOD) is distributing paraffin wax in North-Eastern States, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands through Small Scale Industries Corporation of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. MRL is distributing paraffin wax in Tamil Nadu and Kerala through the respective State's Small Industries Development Corporation. MRL also supplies paraffin wax directly to bulk customers as per their allocation by the Director of Industries, Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

Development of Cities

2696. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of cities in States selected by the Prime Minister for special development; and

(b) the city-wise amount provided to each State under the above scheme during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) There are no cities selected by the Prime Minister for special development.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

KSEB/PFC

2697. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation had sanctioned any loan for re-structuring of the Karnataka State Electricity Board during 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation has not so far sanctioned any loan for re-structuring of the Karnataka Electricity Board during 1996-97.

Population Explosion

2698. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the population explosion has to late assumed alarming proportion particularly in the mega cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to curb the population growth in the cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The population growth rates of mega cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai have been fairly high. The decadal rates for 1981-91 for the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai have been 46.95%, 52.81% 26.42% and 19.88% respectively.

(b) While the Government of India emphasises population control measures through family welfare schemes, as regards migration to mega cities from rural areas and small and medium towns, the approach of the Government is to address the problem through Rural Development Schemes and the Scheme of Integrated Development and Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT). The various rural development programmes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurances Scheme (EAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Rural Water Supply (RWS) etc., formulated by the Government of India emphasises the creation of job opportunities in villages through public works, employment and income generating programmes, etc. The IDSMT Scheme aims at the development of selected regional growth centres with key infrastructure so as to enable them to function as generators of economic growth and employment and to minimise the incentive of migrants belonging to villages and small and medium towns to move to large cities.

Simhadri Power Project

2699. DR. M JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the APSEB and National Thermal Power